

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes (*amended 9/7/17)
August 3, 2017 at 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

First Selectman Nina Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Selectmen Chris Spaulding and Dennis Tracey were present. Also in attendance was Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Board of Finance Chair Steve Ezzes, and members of the audience.

Town Administrator, Jonathan Luiz, was not present.

- 1- **Pledge** – led by Dallas Kersey
- 2- **Proclamation for Dallas Kersey** : presented by First Selectman Nina Daniel
- 3- **Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Tony Pesco to the Lachat Town Farm Commission for a term to end July 31, 2020.** Mr. Pesco stated he has a strong interest in farming and sustainability. He also stated he would like to help with crowd funding to raise money in the private sector. Mr. Spaulding moved to appoint Tony Pesco to the Lachat Town Farm Commission for a term to end July 31, 2020. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4- **Discussion/decision regarding setting of a Public Hearing on a proposed dog park**
Mr. Spaulding expressed that he wants residents to have the opportunity to speak. Ms. Daniel encouraged residents to look at the website to review documents posted. Mr. Spaulding explained what happens at a public hearing and stated the establishment of a special town meeting is contingent on results of the public hearing. Mr. Tracey reminded the public that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) is still in the information gathering stage. Mr. Tracey moved that the public hearing be held at 10:30am September 9th, 2017, at the Weston High School Cafeteria to have a public discussion of whether to establish a dog park on the town owned land known as the Moore Property. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried.
- 5- **Discussion/decision regarding setting of a Special Town Meeting on a proposed dog park** Ms. Daniel stated that the purpose of this item is to reserve a date and time to potentially hold a town vote on the proposed dog park. Mr. Spaulding moved that the Board of Selectmen hold a Special Town Meeting to be held at 7:30 pm on *October 4, 2017, at the Weston High School Cafeteria on whether to establish a dog park on the town owned land known as the Moore Property. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.

Michael Moore of 100 Davis Hill Road stated that he sold this property to the Town of Weston with the impression that it would remain as open space and that it wouldn't be developed while he was still living on the property. Past First Selectman Woody Bliss then spoke and stated that he too felt the property should remain as open space and should honor the wishes of the Moore family. Mr. Spaulding then said that he looks forward to having an honest and open discussion about the issue at the public hearing.

Several other residents then asked to be presented with a written comparison of all town owned parks and pieces of land that were looked at as possible locations of this proposed dog park. The Selectmen agreed that this report will be produced and posted on our website.

- 6- **Discussion/decision regarding contract with insurance brokers** – This item was postponed until the next BOS Meeting on August 17th.
- 7- **Discussion/decision regarding a blight ordinance** - Ms. Daniel questioned the other Selectmen as to whether this should be pursued. She stated that there are certain situations where a blight ordinance is needed because people are not taking care of their properties, and it reduces the value of the home and the neighborhood. She also stated that safety and hazards should also be considered. Mr. Tracey agreed as long as there are parameters that are strictly enforced. Ms. Daniel stated that she and town staff are currently researching neighboring towns' blight ordinances. Both Mr. Tracey and Mr. Spaulding agreed it was a good idea to move ahead with pursuing a blight ordinance.
- 8- **Discussion/decision regarding FY 2017/18** Board of Finance Chair Steve Ezzes expressed his concerns about the state budget and how it will affect Weston. He stated that the fiscal situation in Connecticut has not improved, making Connecticut an unattractive place to do business. Mr. Ezzes does not see the trend reversing, so he stated that we need to continue to be fiscally responsible, and even more fiscally prudent going forward. He stated he will be having this same conversation with the Board of Education. Mr. Ezzes shared some ideas such as sharing services with other towns and imposing a hiring freeze on new hires. He said he will send an email to the Board of Selectmen with recommendations.
- 9- **Discussion/decision regarding Assistant Animal Control Officer**- this item was postponed.
- 10- **Discussion/decision regarding Property Tax Refunds** – this item was postponed
- 11- **Discussion/decision regarding the approval of BOS Minutes of July 20, 2017.**- This item was postponed
- 12- **First Selectman Updates** - Ms. Daniels only update was on the state budget, but this topic was covered by Mr. Steve Ezzes.

13- Executive Session

- a. Potential purchase of real estate

Mr. Tracey moved to enter into executive session to discuss a potential purchase of real estate. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Session ended: 8:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant.

*Approved September 7, 2017 with an amendment made by Nina Daniel at the September 7th BOS meeting. A change was made to the date for the proposed Special Town Meeting (agenda item # %) from September 28th to October 4th.